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April 16, 2001

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S 2001-2002 UNMET NEEDS AND PROGRAM
PRIORITIES**

Dear Supervisors:

The weaknesses which have been revealed in our local Criminal Justice System must be addressed, in part, on the County Government level. The District Attorney's Office is of paramount importance in maintaining the integrity, fairness, and equality of justice in our local system through conscientious oversight of the arrest review process, use of force by public officers, and criminal case filings.

No less important is the District Attorney's ability to assist law enforcement agencies in the objective and timely review of criminal allegations against police officers, and other public officers.

Furthermore, the Los Angeles County public demands accountability on the part of all public officials. The public depends on the District Attorney's Office to objectively review all complaints and allegations of a criminal nature concerning public officials.

Certain critical law enforcement investigations also depend heavily on the leadership and resources of the District Attorney, in order to effectively oppose organized criminal enterprises and fraud operations.

I am recommending to your Board a number of public protection programs, which are priorities for this Department's unmet needs. These programs are not addressed in the recommended 2001-2002 County Budget.

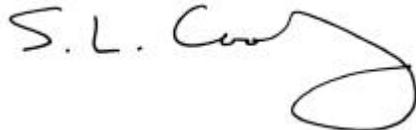
The Honorable Board of Supervisors
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A brief summary of the program recommendations is as follows:

1.	District Attorney Response Team	\$.9 Million
2.	Justice System Integrity Division	1.5 Million
3.	Unincorporated Area Code Enforcement	1.8 Million
4.	Organized Crime/Hate Crime Division	2.1 Million
5.	Court Unification: Impact on DA	2.3 Million
6.	Prosecution Support Operations	.2 Million
7.	Attorney Transition: Family Support Bureau	<u>.75 Million</u>
		\$9.55 Million

Included with this correspondence is a detailed description of the prioritized programs and associated costs. I look forward to meeting with you and your staffs in the near future to further explain the necessity and importance of these programs to Los Angeles County.

Sincerely,



STEVE COOLEY
District Attorney

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Attachments

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S PRIORITY PROGRAMS:

UNMET NEEDS 2001-2002 FY

Priority Number: 1

Program: District Attorney's Response Team (Roll Out)

Positions: 9

Cost: \$851,000

Justification: The Federally-funded grant which enabled Los Angeles County to continue the District Attorney's Response Team (DART) during 2000-2001 is due to expire very soon.

The ability to respond Countywide at any hour of the day or night with a Deputy District Attorney and an Investigator, as a team, is the highest demonstration of our responsiveness to the Community, and to law enforcement. In the highly charged aftermath of a police shooting, the District Attorney's Response Team is an invaluable asset in the objective evaluation of the circumstances.

Since the program's inception, DART has responded to 86 shootings and five in-custody deaths where it was shown that a suspect expired while in the custody of law enforcement. Funding for the first year of the program has been through a Bureau of Justice Administration grant in the amount of \$1,000,000. These funds will be expended by the end of the fiscal year. There is a need to fund the continuation of this program.

Fifty-nine law enforcement agencies within the County of Los Angeles have signed the protocol that sets out the procedure that will be followed with the District Attorney's Office in the handling of these cases.

The Justice System Integrity Division (JSID) of the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office, of which the DART program is a component, has filed one criminal case against a Los Angeles Police Department officer resulting from a non-fatal shooting. The DART team member who responded to this shooting, as well as another deputy district attorney assigned to DART, will be vertically prosecuting this case.

A DART team consists of a deputy district attorney and a senior district attorney investigator, and is ready for immediate response to the scene of an officer-involved shooting, or in-custody death of a suspect where use of force may be the cause of death.

Eight experienced deputy district attorneys have been assigned to the DART team on a part-time (50%) basis. If there is a call for a second shooting, the Assistant Head Deputy and a back-up investigator are on-call to respond if needed. In addition, the Assistant Head Deputy assists each deputy on the DART team with his/her first shooting investigation. This practice will continue with any additional personnel assigned to the DART program. Nine senior district attorney investigators are assigned to DART.

Our division has made a commitment to the involved agencies to complete our investigation within 60 days of receiving the completed investigative reports from the primary investigating agency.

The program has been successful in the first year of its implementation. Virtually every major law enforcement agency in the county has joined the program. In several of the cases, police departments have conducted additional investigations, at our request, to ensure a thorough evaluation of the facts.

We have found that the time period from the incident itself to the completion of investigation reports varies with the complexity of the case and the agency involved.

When officers or deputies use deadly force, the public has a right to expect that a thorough, fair and neutral examination will be conducted of these incidents.

A continuation of this program is a vital component of our role as an independent public prosecutor, and in the public's ability to have confidence that independent reviews are conducted when there is an officer-involved shooting.

This recommended program is consistent with the County's Vision Statement which adheres to the service philosophy of responsiveness, integrity, commitment, accountability and compassion.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

2001-02 BUDGET REQUEST

POSITION CHANGE JUSTIFICATION

BUREAU: **FRAUD AND CORRUPTION PROSECUTIONS**

UNIT: **ROLL-OUT TEAM**

PR	POS	MOS	ITEM NAME	AMOUNT
	4	48	DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY IV	\$ 471,766
	1	12	LEGAL OFFICE SUPPORT ASST II	38,056
	4	48	SENIOR INVESTIGATOR, DA	283,911
	9	108	SUBTOTAL	\$ 793,733
			SAL. SAVINGS	(158,747)
			NET SALARY	\$ 634,986
			EMP. BENEFITS	154,067
			SUBTOTAL	\$ 789,053
			S&S (Includes space costs)	61,721
			FIXED ASSETS	0
			SUBTOTAL	\$ 850,774
			REVENUE	0
			NET COUNTY COST	\$ 850,774

Priority Number: 2

Program: Justice System Integrity Division

Positions: 20

Cost: \$1,533,000

Justification: The recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to fund the Justice System Integrity Division is a natural outgrowth of the constitutional responsibility of the District Attorney to investigate and prosecute violations of law by criminal justice employees who break the law in the name of law enforcement, or who set up criminal enterprises under the shield of public authority. This is the worst type of public corruption. The Los Angeles County region has experienced a costly and lengthy wake-up call in this area of concern.

The District Attorney has historically been involved with response and review of cases which concern officer-involved shootings and in-custody deaths in Los Angeles County. As recently revealed in the Rampart case, certain officer-involved shootings were an underlying symptom of corruption in that case.

The Justice System Integrity Division is charged with the responsibility of investigating two types of cases. The first is officer-involved shootings (O.I.S.) occurring in Los Angeles County. These cases average one to two shootings a week. The complexity of an O.I.S. investigation varies depending on the circumstances surrounding the shooting.

The second type of Justice System Integrity Division case involves alleged criminal misconduct by an official in the Justice System. Typical cases involve excessive force by police officers, falsification of evidence, bribery and perjury.

Because of the recent focus on the Justice System by the public, news media and law enforcement officials, the types and number of cases referred to the Justice System Integrity Division are expected to dramatically increase. For example, LAPD Administrators have forecast an increase of 1000 cases being referred to the District Attorney's Office over the next year. Several small police agencies have requested that the Justice System Integrity Division consider handling the entire shooting investigation, including crimes committed by the shooting subject. There is also a suggestion by the local Bar Association that alleged criminal acts by attorneys be referred to the Justice System Integrity Division.

The requirements of the Consent Decree which now affects the LAPD, and the Board's decision to fund the Sheriff's Department's Office of Independent Review will undoubtedly generate a considerable caseload for this office.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

2001-02 BUDGET REQUEST

POSITION CHANGE JUSTIFICATION

UNIT: **JUSTICE SYSTEM INTEGRITY DIVISION**

PR	POS	MOS	ITEM NAME	AMOUNT
	2	24	DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY III	\$ 199,470
	2	24	DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY IV	235,883
	2	24	LEGAL OFFICE SUPPORT ASST II	76,113
	1	12	LIEUTENANT, DA	88,389
	1	12	PARALEGAL	44,469
	8	96	SENIOR INVESTIGATOR, DA	567,823
	1	12	SENIOR LEGAL OFFICE SUPPORT ASST.	40,153
	2	24	SENIOR TYPIST-CLERK	60,853
	1	12	SUPERVISING INVESTIGATOR, DA	78,525
	20	240	SUBTOTAL	\$ 1,391,678
			SAL. SAVINGS	(278,336)
			NET SALARY	\$ 1,113,342
			EMP. BENEFITS	270,130
			SUBTOTAL	\$ 1,383,472
			S&S (Includes space costs)	149,764
			FIXED ASSETS	0
			SUBTOTAL	\$ 1,533,236
			REVENUE	0
			NET COUNTY COST	\$ 1,533,236

Priority Number: 3

Program: Code Enforcement For Unincorporated Areas

Positions: 22

Cost: \$1,809,000

Justification: The recommendation for a Code Enforcement Division is a direct response to a request from at least two Board offices (First and Fifth Districts). The Board Offices have asked this office to enhance the County Code enforcement prosecutions, particularly in the unincorporated areas of the County. Our Contract Cities Section only has two deputy district attorneys for the entire county. While they can accommodate County Code enforcement in unincorporated areas, their primary purpose for being is to provide the same service for contract cities who reimburse us. We presently do not have personnel dedicated exclusively to nuisance prosecutions. These types of cases are very labor intensive in terms of administrative, investigative and prosecutorial follow-up. The persons who are the targets of such enforcement activity are often entrenched emotionally in their defense of their property and personal rights and are not easily persuaded or coerced into compliance with County Codes without considerable effort on the part of County agencies.

Our program recommendation parallels very closely the existing program of the City of Los Angeles Nuisance Abatement Section. This approach is consistent with the County Vision Statement which calls for high quality public services that promote self-sufficiency and which are responsive to needs.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

2001-02 BUDGET REQUEST

POSITION CHANGE JUSTIFICATION

UNIT: **UNINCORPORATED AREAS -
CODE ENFORCEMENT**

PR	POS	MOS	ITEM NAME	AMOUNT
	4	48	DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY II	\$ 329,961
	4	48	DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY III	398,941
	1	12	DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY IV	117,941
	1	12	HEAD DEPUTY, DA	126,646
	2	24	HEARING OFFICER, DA	102,258
	2	24	LEGAL OFFICE SUPPORT ASST II	76,113
	6	72	SENIOR INVESTIGATOR, DA	425,867
	2	24	SENIOR LEGAL OFFICE SUPPORT ASST.	80,306
	22	264	SUBTOTAL	\$ 1,658,033
			SAL. SAVINGS	(331,607)
			NET SALARY	\$ 1,326,426
			EMP. BENEFITS	321,831
			SUBTOTAL	\$ 1,648,257
			S&S (Includes space costs)	160,702
			FIXED ASSETS	0
			SUBTOTAL	\$ 1,808,959
			REVENUE	0
			NET COUNTY COST	\$ 1,808,959

Priority Number: 4

Program: Organized Crimes Division/Hate Crimes Suppression

Positions: 25

Cost: \$2,145,000

Justification: Local, County, State and Federal agencies, prosecution and law enforcement, in California and throughout the country have traditionally worked together in task forces directed at individual organizations that operate together to commit complex financial crimes as well as violent crimes. The violent financial crimes are often used as a means to finance further criminal activities and enterprises which empower organized criminal syndicates. The District Attorney's Office must become a part of this effort to control organized crime groups that include traditional organized crime, motorcycle gangs, prison gangs, Asian, Eurasian, South American and criminal groups which originate in African countries. These groups are responsible for multi-million dollar fraud schemes as well as organized violent crimes which run the gamut from extortion to murder. At the present time, most of this type of criminal activity is not being effectively investigated or prosecuted by local law enforcement or this office. The requested staff augmentation is intended to fill that gap.

The Organized Crimes Division will also handle hate crimes which are the outgrowth of organized hate groups or cliques. We expect an increase in such filings as the result of recent Board action to enhance law enforcement activity by the Sheriff concerning hate crimes.

Six deputy district attorneys supervised by a Head and Assistant Head Deputy and eleven investigators, including a Lieutenant and Supervising Investigator, are necessary to immediately begin operating as a part of these Organized Crime task forces to ensure the most effective and efficient investigation and prosecution of these groups. During investigations, the deputies will work together with law enforcement and our bureau investigators to provide legal guidance and support. These cases are difficult and time consuming to investigate. Working with informants is routine and they present many legal pitfalls, if not handled appropriately. One investigation could conceivably necessitate the use of an entire team of investigators as well as one or two deputies. It is impossible to file cases without the assigned deputies to handle them; consequently, the requested staffing is necessary. The expanded staffing of the Organized Crime Division will likely lead to a future request for additional secure office space in the Civic Center area.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY
2001-02 BUDGET REQUEST
 POSITION CHANGE JUSTIFICATION

UNIT: **ORGANIZED CRIMES DIVISION**

PR	POS	MOS	ITEM NAME	AMOUNT
	7	84	DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY IV	\$ 825,590
	1	12	HEAD DEPUTY, DA	126,646
	1	12	LAW CLERK	25,295
	2	24	LEGAL OFFICE SUPPORT ASST II	76,113
	1	12	LIEUTENANT, DA	88,389
	1	12	PARALEGAL	44,469
	9	108	SENIOR INVESTIGATOR, DA	638,801
	1	12	SENIOR LEGAL OFFICE SUPP ASST	40,153
	1	12	SENIOR TYPIST-CLERK	30,427
	1	12	SUPERVISING INVESTIGATOR, DA	78,525
	25	300	SUBTOTAL	\$ 1,974,408
			SAL. SAVINGS	(394,882)
			NET SALARY	\$ 1,579,526
			EMP. BENEFITS	383,240
			SUBTOTAL	\$ 1,962,766
			S&S (Includes space costs)	182,177
			FIXED ASSETS	0
			SUBTOTAL	\$ 2,144,943
			REVENUE	0
			NET COUNTY COST	\$ 2,144,943

Priority Number: 5

Program: Court Unification

Positions: 29

Cost: \$2,277,000

Justification: The recent consolidation of municipal and superior court branches in Los Angeles County has created a movement within the Court's Administration to reshape the delivery of court operations throughout Los Angeles County. In some cases, this has involved consolidation of branch offices into larger regional courts, expansion of activity at branch courts and an overall increase in active courtrooms.

The District Attorney's Office has been particularly affected by the expansion of courtrooms at the Alhambra, Inglewood, Airport and Beverly Hills Courts.

The Court operations restructure phase is expected to continue, with unknown impact on this office.

The attached summary of recommended additional positions in the District Attorney's Office is consistent with the County Vision of high quality of public services that are responsive, efficient and which promote community well being.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY
2001-02 BUDGET REQUEST
 POSITION CHANGE JUSTIFICATION

UNIT: **COURT UNIFICATION**

PR	POS	MOS	ITEM NAME	AMOUNT
	5	60	DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY II	\$ 412,451
	3	36	DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY III	299,206
	2	24	DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY IV	235,883
	3	36	HEAD DEPUTY, DA	379,938
	3	36	LEGAL OFFICE SUPPORT ASST II	114,169
	3	36	PARALEGAL	133,406
	4	48	SENIOR INVESTIGATOR, DA	283,911
	3	36	SENIOR LEGAL OFFICE SUPPORT ASST.	120,459
	3	36	WITNESS COORDINATOR II	86,292
	29	348	SUBTOTAL	\$ 2,065,715
			SAL. SAVINGS	(413,143)
			NET SALARY	\$ 1,652,572
			EMP. BENEFITS	400,964
			SUBTOTAL	\$ 2,053,536
			S&S (Includes space costs)	223,865
			FIXED ASSETS	0
			SUBTOTAL	\$ 2,277,401
			REVENUE	0
			NET COUNTY COST	\$ 2,277,401

DISTRICT ATTORNEY
2001-02 BUDGET REQUEST
POSITION CHANGE JUSTIFICATION

PR	POS	MOS	ITEM NAME	AMOUNT
<u>ALHAMBRA</u>				
	1	12	DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY II	\$ 82,490
	1	12	DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY III	99,735
	1	12	HEAD DEPUTY, DA	126,646
	1	12	LEGAL OFFICE SUPPORT ASST II	38,056
	1	12	PARALEGAL	44,469
	1	12	SENIOR INVESTIGATOR, DA	70,978
	1	12	SENIOR LEGAL OFFICE SUPPORT ASST.	40,153
	1	12	WITNESS COORDINATOR II	28,764
	<u>8</u>	<u>96</u>	SUBTOTAL	\$ 531,291
			SAL. SAVINGS	(106,258)
			NET SALARY	\$ 425,033
			EMP. BENEFITS	103,126
			SUBTOTAL	\$ 528,159
			S&S (Includes space costs)	63,972
			SUBTOTAL	\$ 592,131
			REVENUE	0
			NET COUNTY COST	\$ 592,131
<u>BEVERLY HILLS</u>				
	1	12	DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY II	\$ 82,490
	1	12	DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY III	99,735
	1	12	HEAD DEPUTY, DA	126,646
	1	12	LEGAL OFFICE SUPPORT ASST II	38,056
	1	12	PARALEGAL	44,469
	1	12	SENIOR INVESTIGATOR, DA	70,978
	1	12	SENIOR LEGAL OFFICE SUPPORT ASST.	40,153
	1	12	WITNESS COORDINATOR II	28,764
	<u>8</u>	<u>96</u>	SUBTOTAL	\$ 531,291
			SAL. SAVINGS	(106,258)
			NET SALARY	\$ 425,033
			EMP. BENEFITS	103,126
			SUBTOTAL	\$ 528,159
			S&S (Includes space costs)	63,972
			SUBTOTAL	\$ 592,131
			REVENUE	0
			NET COUNTY COST	\$ 592,131
<u>INGLEWOOD</u>				
	1	12	DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY II	\$ 82,490
	1	12	DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY III	99,735
	1	12	HEAD DEPUTY, DA	126,646
	1	12	LEGAL OFFICE SUPPORT ASST II	38,056
	1	12	PARALEGAL	44,469
	1	12	SENIOR INVESTIGATOR, DA	70,978
	1	12	SENIOR LEGAL OFFICE SUPPORT ASST.	40,153
	1	12	WITNESS COORDINATOR II	28,764
	<u>8</u>	<u>96</u>	SUBTOTAL	\$ 531,291
			SAL. SAVINGS	(106,258)
			NET SALARY	\$ 425,033
			EMP. BENEFITS	103,126
			SUBTOTAL	\$ 528,159
			S&S (Includes space costs)	63,972
			SUBTOTAL	\$ 592,131
			REVENUE	0
			NET COUNTY COST	\$ 592,131
<u>AIRPORT COURTHOUSE</u>				
	2	24	DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY II	\$ 164,980
	2	24	DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY IV	235,883
	1	12	SENIOR INVESTIGATOR, DA	70,978
	<u>5</u>	<u>60</u>	SUBTOTAL	\$ 471,841
			SAL. SAVINGS	(94,368)
			NET SALARY	\$ 377,473
			EMP. BENEFITS	91,586
			SUBTOTAL	\$ 469,059
			S&S (Includes space costs)	31,949
			SUBTOTAL	\$ 501,008
			REVENUE	0
			NET COUNTY COST	\$ 501,008

Priority Number: 6

Program: Prosecution Support Operations (Administration)

Positions: 3

Cost: \$238,000

Justification: The District Attorney has realigned the Department's organization and management team in order to be more responsive to our client community and also internally.

The Bureau of Prosecution Support has been recently formed to realign internally focused prosecutorial support activity under a unified command. One additional Bureau Chief, a secretary and an office clerk are required to properly administer the new Bureau which oversees the following highly critical Divisions and functions: Training, Trial Support, Appellate Division, Extradition, and Community Prosecution.

This new Bureau, and its administrative component, are indicative of the District Attorney's commitment to provide superior staff resources to the criminal justice community through the efforts of our highly supported prosecutorial presentations in all of the County's Courts.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

2001-02 BUDGET REQUEST

POSITION CHANGE JUSTIFICATION

BUREAU: **PROSECUTION SUPPORT OPERATIONS**

UNIT: **ADMINISTRATION**

PR	POS	MOS	ITEM NAME	AMOUNT
	1	12	BUREAU CHIEF, DA (UC)	\$ 133,311
	1	12	MANAGEMENT SECRETARY V	51,380
	1	12	SENIOR CLERK	29,700
	3	36	SUBTOTAL	\$ 214,391
			SAL. SAVINGS	(42,878)
			NET SALARY	\$ 171,513
			EMP. BENEFITS	41,614
			SUBTOTAL	\$ 213,127
			S&S (Includes space costs)	24,975
			FIXED ASSETS	0
			SUBTOTAL	\$ 238,102
			REVENUE	0
			NET COUNTY COST	\$ 238,102

Priority Number: 7

Program: Family Support Attorney Transition

Positions: 0

Cost: \$750,000

Justification: This request is for financial assistance in the transition of Family Support Attorneys into the Criminal Operations of the District Attorney's Office. A total of 43 attorneys have elected to transfer when positions are available in the District Attorney's Department. Some may be able to transfer within the current year and the remainder will transfer during the 2001-2002 period. Each transferred attorney requires orientation, classroom training and one-on-one mentoring for a period of time to render them prepared for the transition from Family Support case work into courtroom prosecution activity. It is a labor intensive, time consuming process which calls for occasional double staffing in order to mentor individuals on the job. We have calculated the impact of this one time transition cost during the coming fiscal year period as \$750,000.